

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete lines 1-2 on page 1, and replace the deleted text with the following title and paragraph:

**-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is a Continuation-in-Part of Application Serial No. 09/381,113 filed October 15, 1999, which is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP98/01436, filed on March 12, 1998. Priority is claimed on that application and on the following application,

Country: Germany, Application No.: 197 10 819.9, Filed: March 15, 1997.--

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Pursuant to this object, and others which will become apparent hereafter, one aspect of the present invention resides in a fuel cell having an anode-cathode unit which includes an anode catalyst and means which impress a positive voltage pulse on the anode of a fuel cell are provided. A pulsed variation of the anode potential is brought about by the impressing of said pulse. The fuel cell has a voltage that does not change sign and at most becomes zero so that voltage  $U(\text{fuel cell}) = U(\text{cathode}) - U(\text{anode}) \geq 0$   $U(\text{fuel cell}) = U(\text{cathode}) - U(\text{anode}) \geq 0$ . --